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spirit v adelaide city force

sunday march 4
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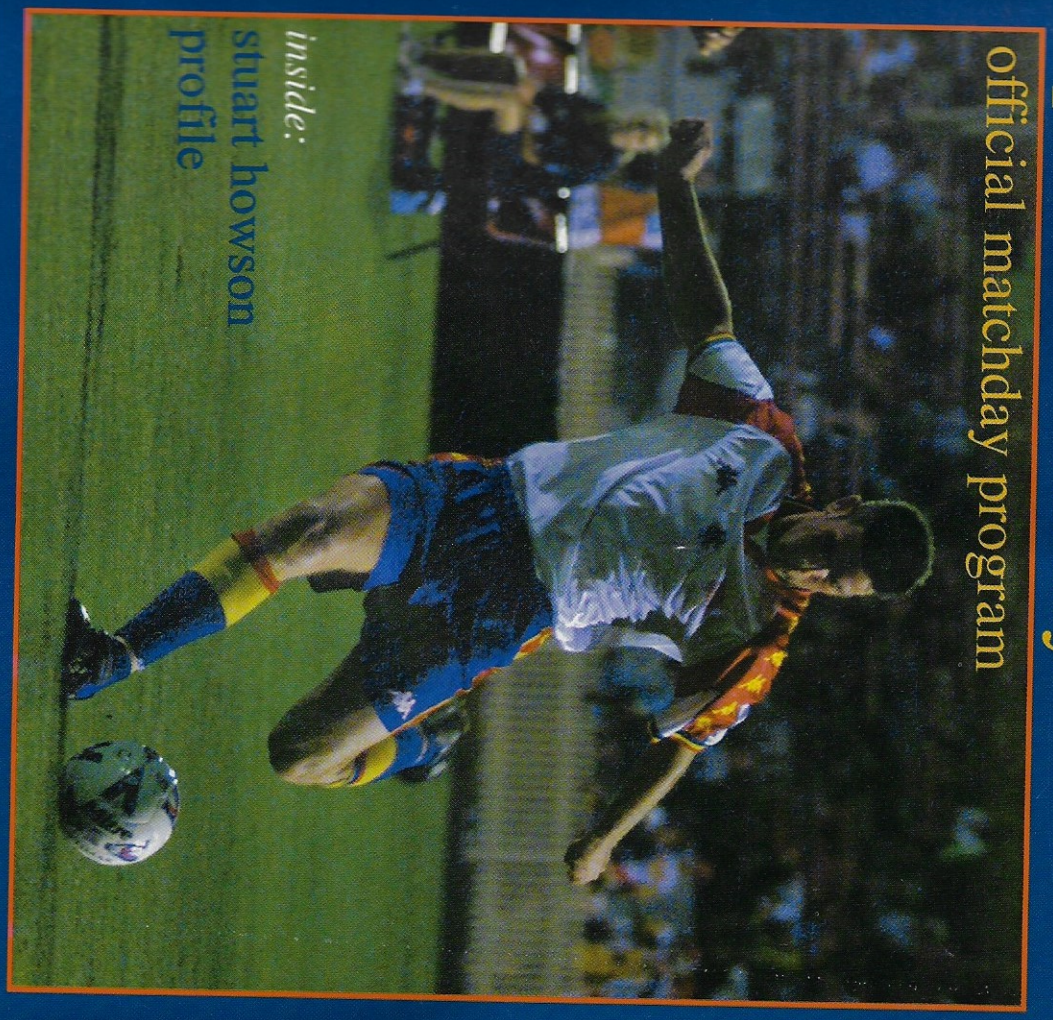
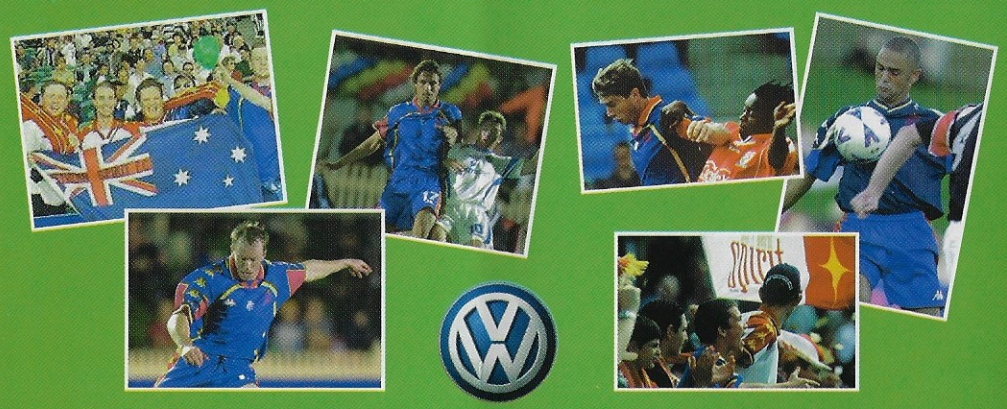


spirit matchday

official matchday program

inside:
stuart howson
profile

A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN!



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contents

In your latest issue of Spirit Matchday:

Page 4	New coach Mick Hickman looks at the latest matches involving Northern Spirit.
Page 6/7	Spirit Matchday talks to new signing Stuart Howson.
Page 8	Squad lists.
Page 9	A look at our opposition - Adelaide City Force.
Page 11	Mark Fowler looks at Spirit's round 20 defeat of Newcastle United.
Page 12/13	Ryan Griffiths poster.
Page 14	Spirit round-up.
Page 15	Northern Spirit 2000/01 Fixtures and results.
Pages 16/17	Want a quick quiz? Spot the ball? Then go to our kids pages and try your luck!
Pages 18/19	Find out the latest news from both on and off the field at Northern Spirit.
Page 20	Find out all about the launch of Spirit's new improved website!
Pages 22	Youth Team update.

NEXT HOME GAME: Round 25

30/3/01 Northern Spirit vs Melbourne Knights

7.30pm North Sydney Oval

mick hickman column

Tonight we take on the Adelaide City Force in what is a crucial game for the Northern Spirit Football Club.

Northern Spirit has come up with some good results since we were last at North Sydney Oval and we are keen to prove we can do it in front of our own supporters.

Those of you who were in Newcastle, and you certainly made yourselves known to the lads with your noise, would have seen a bit of a change in the way the boys responded to going behind.

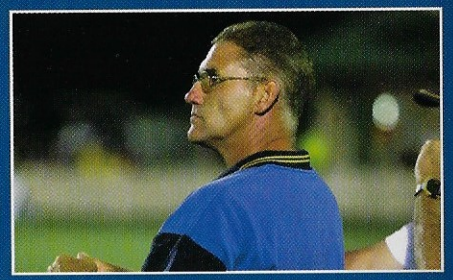
When Newcastle scored we could have dropped off. It happens away from home but it didn't happen to us and we grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck with four goals in a wonderful 17 minute period.

We played some good football, knocked the ball around well and more importantly we believed in ourselves and carried on with our jobs.

The end result saw us equalise through a good strike from Matty Langdon and then we held them down and knocked the stuffing out of them. Danny Watkins did well to score two goals off the bench and than we rounded it off with a goal to Fozzie.

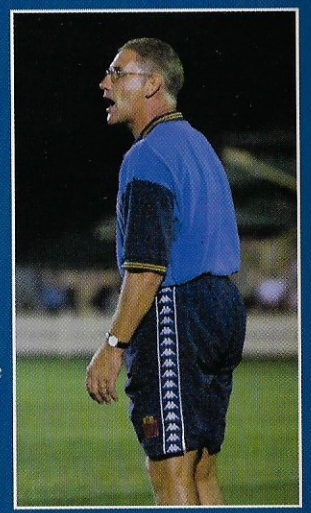
It was rewarding to see!

We were faced with a similar situation



in New Zealand the week previous against the Kingz. The Kingz scored soon after the break and with some very vocal support looked like they would go on with it but we rolled our sleeves up and said: "This is our game" and we went out and won it.

The players are thinking like winners and that is what I have been trying to drum into them. We are starting to see a lift in confidence and for all of you out there frustrated by recent results - Hang in there!



The football team we have here is a good football team and we are going to show this to our fans tonight.

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Homebush

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Broadway
Chatswood
Sydney City
Brookvale

Insport -
North Sydney

Grace Bros -
Sydney City
Brookvale
Chatswood
Miranda
Macquarie

profile stuart howson

Spirit fans at Marathon Stadium for the round 20 match against Newcastle United will have seen new on-loan defender Stuart Howson looking slightly out of place in the second half.

It wasn't anything to do with his play - the youngster having already impressed in his first month at the club - but more the fact that he took the field in a shirt without a number on it!

A kick on the nose meant the shirt he wore in the first half was splattered in blood, so the Blackburn Rovers reserve grade captain was forced into wearing a numberless shirt.

It's been the least of Howson's worries though in his time at Spirit. A move to the other side of the world is never easy, and it didn't help matters when the coach who brought him to the club, Graham Arnold, left less than a week later.

"Yeah, it certainly didn't help," said Howson. "But in football you just get on with it - I've already had three coaches (Roy Hodgson, Brian Kidd and Graeme Souness) in three years at Blackburn."

Howson was brought to the club after a run of four successive defeats, and although they lost the first two he played, two away wins since have more than made up for it.

"I am really enjoying it here, and obviously it's a nice place. The main thing though is its good to start winning. To get two wins together, away from home too, is good."

Howson says his Blackburn teammate, Ben Burgess, played a factor in his move to Spirit.

"It helps having Ben here of course, but it will also help him too. Obviously we are at the same club in England and get on well, so it should be good for both of us.

Stuart Howson

"Spirit were needing a centre half, and the club got hold of me. It all happened really quickly - they got in touch with me on the Friday and by the Wednesday I was here.

"I had no doubts about coming over - I had spoken to Ben quite regularly while he was here and knew he was really enjoying it, plus I'd seen it on the TV over in England."

Howson, on loan to the end of the season, is from Preston, about as Lancashire as you can get, and has been at Blackburn since he was 10 years old.

"I've never played for anyone else other than them, but I came here for first team experience - that's what its about. It's a great learning experience as well in a different country with different styles and different players, and it should all help me mature as a player.

"The standard is a lot better than I thought it would be, and also a lot different from what I am used to. Obviously its a lot hotter here, so you can't play like you do in England."

Among a host of fine attributes the 19-year old defender possesses is that he is keen to 'talk' during the game.

Despite being the new boy Howson has no second thoughts about telling the likes of Matt Bingley and Mike Smith who to pick up.

"I like to organise people, it makes it so much easier for everyone if you are talking during the game. I can't be fazed by who the player is, because if I keep quiet and the player they are marking scores then I consider that its down to me. Mind you, I've always been like that - a bit of a big mouth!"

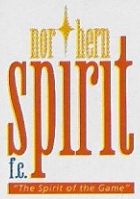
It will be a critical time for Howson when he returns to the UK, as he readily admits.

"It will be time to start making a real impression then as I'll be nearly 20, and really I need to be getting in and around the first team."

Until then, Spirit fans can enjoy watching the man known as to his teammates as 'Alf' who, numberless shirt aside, shouldn't look out of place in the Spirit defence again.

Stuart Howson

TODAY'S SQUADS



1	John Perosh
2	Michael Cunico
3	Matthew Langdon
4	Matthew Bingley
5	Mike Smith
6	Scott Thomas
7	Robbie Slater
8	Robert Enes
9	Alex Moreira
10	Gabriel Mendez
11	Troy Cranney
12	Ben Burgess
13	Phil Moss
14	Noel Spencer
15	Tony Perinich
16	Simon Catanzaro
17	Paul Bilokapic
18	Daniel Watkins
19	Ryan Griffiths
20	Paul Henderson
21	Adam Griffiths
22	Jacek Sobczyk
23	Adam Snyder
24	Tony Faria
25	Craig Foster
26	Joseph Schirripa
27	Stuart Howson
28	Ian Crook
29	Todd Macrae

COACH: Mick Hickman

Adrian Cagalj	1
Gianluca Lagati	2
Iain Fyfe	3
Ante Kovacevic	4
Fabrizio Bucciarelli	5
Louis Brain	6
Kosta Salapasidis	7
Carl Veart	8
Nick Sabljak	9
Aurelio Vidmar	10
Bradley Hassell	11
Scott Tunbridge	12
Kristian Rees	13
Aaron Goulding	14
Lucas Pantelis	15
David Terminello	16
Mario Karlovic	17
Ivan Karlovic	18
Claudio Pelosi	19
Daniel Goldey	20
Neil Childs	21
Shane Thompson	22
Nick Budin	23
Nathan Day	24
Owen Filewood	25

COACH: Zoran Matic

opposition lowdown

Our visitor's this afternoon at North Sydney Oval are the Adelaide City Force, who before Spirit's game with Wollongong last Tuesday sat in 9th place with 27 points from 19 games.

Last week the Force were disappointed to be held to a 1-1 draw at home by the Kingz Football Club, with substitute Nathan Day's 68th minute strike being cancelled out by a late Kingz equaliser.

The experienced hand of coach Zoran Matic, who is in his second spell with the club, guides the Force. Matic is the second most experienced coach in NSL history behind Frank Arok and has already coached well over 400 NSL games.

Against the Kingz Matic started with Adrian Cagalj in goals, with Daniel Godley as reserve goalkeeper. Cagalj celebrated his 25th birthday a couple of weeks ago, while Godley, who turns the same age in the middle of this month, has yet to make an NSL appearance at the start of this season.

Defender Aaron Goulding and midfielder Lucas Pantelis both missed last week's match on LG Young Socceroo duty, while the versatile Gianluca Lagati and Ivan Karlovic will also be available today to Matic after both served one match suspensions last week.

The experienced Ante Kovacevic, who joined the club after playing nearly 150 NSL games for the Melbourne Knights did play in defence last week, as did former Palermo defender Fabrizio Bucciarelli, another to make his Force debut this season.

The talented 18 year-old Louis Brain was also a starter last week, while another of the Force's talented youngsters is Kosta Salapasidis, who is best remembered for his amazing four-goal haul for Australia against Argentina in the 1997 World Youth Championships.

Carl Veart has over 200 NSL games, as well as a stint in England to his name, but when it comes to experience you can't look past Force skipper Aurelio Vidmar.

Vidmar was the Belgium League's top goalscorer in 1994/95 for Standard Leige, and won the Oceania Player of the Year award in 1995. In addition to a glittering career both overseas and for the LG Socceroos, Vidmar has made over 200 NSL appearances for his hometown club and is rightly regarded as one of the best players ever produced by Australia.

Brad Hassell is one of the most dangerous players in the NSL, the midfielder or striker yet another in the Force ranks to have over 200 NSL appearances for his only club, while youngster Scott Tunbridge only made his NSL debut this season but has already been among the goals.

Making up the team last week were David Terminello and striker Claudio Pelosi, who lists among his clubs Italian sides Cremonese and Empoli and averages nearly a goal every two games in the NSL.

Substitutes last week for the Force were goalscorer Day, defender Iain Fyfe and midfielder Nick Budin, while Nikola Sabljak is expected to miss another few weeks yet as he recovers from achilles injury.

fan's view

with Mark Fowler

• Paul Anderson reports that the Supporters Committee plans to run buses to the upcoming Marconi (24/03/01) & Canberra (21/04/01) away games, contingent on sufficient expressions of interest. Please contact Paul by email on wellplanned@triode.net.au or leave a message on the fans infoline on 02 8250 4004.

• Good to see former Spirit defender Mark Rudan getting a game for his team Aachen in the German 2nd Division (BUNDESLIGA 2) - although the last report from Soccer Australia has his team crashing 4-0 away to Duisburg.

• Talking of former Spirit defenders, congratulations to Luke Casserly of AIK Solna in Sweden, who was selected in the 18 man LG Socceroo squad due to face Colombia last Thursday (Australian Eastern Summer Time).

• If Spirit can score tonight the first goalscorer will have the honour of scoring the club's 50th NSL goal at North Sydney Oval.

• GIANT CELEBRATION PARTY
Hosted by Andy Paschalidis - Fox Sports On Saturday 17th March, from 1:00pm-5:00pm you are invited to join all the players from Northern Spirit for a giant sausage sizzle, skill demonstrations, photos and autographs. In addition there will be free coaching clinics at 1:30pm for the first 300 participants.

Everyone is welcome - so get down to North Sydney Oval and support the Spirit. All profits from the sausage sizzle go directly to your local soccer Association.

• MEMBERS 6-A-SIDE COMPETITION
The day after the Giant Celebration Party, Sunday March 18th, will be our 6-a-side competition, which gives our members the chance to play at North Sydney Oval.

This is a free competition for Northern Spirit members, so enter now through Spirit headquarters - ph: (02) 9460 2187.

• PRESENTATION NIGHT
As advised in our last issue of Spirit Matchday our Presentation Night will now take place on Tuesday June 12 at the Wentworth Hotel.

This year the night will be a Charity Sporting Dinner, with LG Socceroo coach Frank Farina as our special guest and entertainment provided by comedian Brian Doyle.

Proceeds from the night will go to a wonderful cause in Bear Cottage, a hospice for terminally ill children and their families. Bear Cottage is an initiative of the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

For bookings and inquires please call Spirit headquarters on (02) 9460 2187.

"WARNING - ENTRY CONDITIONS",
(a) "Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted."
(b) "All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game."
(c) Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time."
(d) "The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited."
"OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED".

Northern Spirit Supporters club contact details:

Infoline (02) 8250 4004
Email: nsfc98@yahoo.com
Website: www.spiritfans.com

match report

with Mark Fowler

Friday February 23rd, 2001
Newcastle United 2 (Surjan 48' pen, McBreen 79')
NORTHERN SPIRIT 4 (Langdon 60', Watkins 63'/70', Foster 77')
Marathon Stadium. Crowd 6,875.

An amazing four-goal haul in just 17 minutes was enough to give Northern Spirit its second away win on the trot - and sink Newcastle United at Marathon Stadium.
With striker John Buonavoglia causing the Spirit defence all sorts of trouble in the first half the home team could easily have been two up at the break - and deservedly so - but for John Perosh in the Spirit goal. After Andy Roberts fired over on 12 minutes Perosh was forced into action, blocking efforts from Buonavoglia soon after and then Esala Masi on 28 minutes. In between though was Perosh's most important save after referee Brett Hugo adjudged that Mike Smith had brought down Buonavoglia in the penalty area. Fortunately for Spirit Buonavoglia's spot kick was atrocious, rolling the ball weakly for Perosh to save easily.
After a scoreless first half the game soon had its first goal when Buonavoglia was brought down in the area again just two minutes after the restart. Matt Bingley was the offender this time, and Anthony Surjan finished easily past Perosh to put the home side into the lead.
On the hour mark though the game exploded into life, when Matty Langdon neatly controlled Craig Foster's quick free kick. He went across the face of the penalty area, and although on his less-favoured right-foot smacked the ball past Bob Catlin for a fine strike.
Injury forced Ben Burgess from the field just two minutes later, and his replacement Daniel Watkins's first job was neatly side-footing the ball past Catlin with his first touch, after some tremendous work down the left-hand flank by Ryan Griffiths.
It was a complete turn-around, and seven minutes later a sensational team effort saw Watkins grab his second. Keeping possession well on the right-hand side of the field substitute Robbie Slater seized just the right time to thrust forward, skipping past a would-be tackler before crossing for Watkins to hammer home.
It got better for Spirit on 77 minutes, a Craig Foster free kick from about 35 metres out somehow being missed by everyone and sailing straight into the far corner of the net. Substitute Daniel McBreen got a consolation for United with ten minutes remaining, but that 17-minute spell proved decisive for the Spirit.

NORTHERN SPIRIT: Perosh, Cunico, Langdon, Bingley, Smith (Slater H/T) Thomas, Cranney (Enes 87') Burgess (Watkins 62') R. Griffiths, Foster, Howson
SUB NOT USED: Henderson

Cautions: Smith 16', Cunico 26', Thomas 64', Langdon 78'.

Ryan Griffiths

spirit round-up

R20 results

23.02.01	**Newcastle Utd**	**2 - 4**	**NORTHERN SPIRIT**
23.02.01	Adelaide City	1 - 1	Kingz FC
23.02.01	Marconi	5 - 2	Sydney United
23.02.01	Brisbane Strikers	2 - 4	Wollongong Wolves
23.02.01	Melbourne Knights	4 - 0	South Melbourne
24.02.01	Canberra Cosmos	0 - 1	Parramatta Power
24.02.01	Perth Glory	2 - 1	Eastern Pride
Sydney Olympic (BYE)			

R21 draw

Fri 02-03-01	Kingz FC vs Perth Glory	7:30pm	Jade Stad., C'church
Fri 02-03-01	Wollongong Wolves vs Parramatta Power	7:30pm	WIN Stadium
Sat 03-03-01	Canberra Cosmos vs Newcastle United	6:30pm	Bruce Stadium
Sun 04-03-01	**NORTHERN SPIRIT vs Adelaide City**	**5:00pm**	**North Sydney Oval**
Sun 04-03-01	Sydney United vs Melbourne Knights	4:00pm	Syd Utd Sports Ctr
Sun 04-03-01	Sydney Olympic vs Marconi Stallions	6:30pm	Belmore Sports Grd
Sun 04-03-01	Brisbane Strikers vs South Melbourne	POSTPONED	
BYE - Eastern Pride			

2000/01 Competition ladder

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	Bye	GF	GA	PT	POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	Bye	GF	GA	PT
1	South Melbourne	20	11	5	2	2	42	15	44	9	Adelaide City Force	19	7	3	8	1	31	35	27
2	Wollongong Wolves	18	10	4	2	2	43	22	40	**10**	**NORTHERN SPIRIT**	**19**	**6**	**4**	**8**	**1**	**25**	**23**	**25**
3	Sydney Olympic	20	10	4	4	2	38	21	40	11	Kingz FC	20	5	5	9	1	27	31	23
4	Perth Glory	20	10	6	3	1	47	22	39	12	Canberra Cosmos	20	4	4	10	2	29	32	22
5	Marconi Stallions	20	9	5	5	1	34	27	35	13	Brisbane Strikers	20	4	6	9	1	32	37	21
6	Melbourne Knights	20	9	3	7	1	40	32	33	14	Newcastle United	20	3	8	8	1	18	33	20
7	Parramatta Power	20	8	2	9	1	30	28	29	15	Eastern Pride	20	2	4	13	1	22	34	13
8	Sydney United	20	6	5	7	2	30	36	29										

*For all matches which Carlton played, or were scheduled to play, three competition points will be awarded to their opponents with a 3-0 score.

Northern Spirit 2000/2001 National League Fixtures and results

Rnd	Date	Versus	H/A	Time/Score
1	15th Oct	Sydney United	A	1-2
2	20th Oct	Sydney Olympic	H	0-0
3	28th Oct	Eastern Pride	A	2-0
4	3rd Nov	Kingz FC	H	4-2
5	11th Nov	Newcastle Breakers	H	0-0
6	17th Nov	Adelaide City Force	A	2-3
7	24th Nov	Perth Glory	H	2-0
8	3rd Dec	Carlton	A	3-0*
9	8th Dec	Marconi Stallions	H	0-0
10	17th Dec	Melbourne Knights	A	1-1
11	22nd Dec	Brisbane Strikers	H	1-0
12	29th Dec	Parramatta Power	A	0-3
13	5th Jan	Canberra Cosmos	H	0-2
15	19th Jan	South Melbourne	H	1-2
16	26th Jan	Sydney United	H	1-2
17	4th Feb	Sydney Olympic	A	1-2
18	9th Feb	Eastern Pride	H	0-1
19	16th Feb	Kingz FC	A	2-1
20	23rd Feb	Newcastle United	A	4-2
14	27th Feb	Wollongong Wolves	A	7.30pm
21	4th Mar	Adelaide City Force	H	5.00pm
22	10th Mar	Perth Glory	A	7.00pm
23	16th Mar	BYE		
24	24th Mar	Marconi Stallions	A	7.00pm
25	30th Mar	Melbourne Knights	H	7.30pm
26	8th Apr	Brisbane Strikers	A	6:00pm
27	13th Apr	Parramatta Power	H	7.30pm
28	21st Apr	Canberra Cosmos	A	6:30pm
29	25th Apr	Wollongong Wolves	H	7.30pm
30	29th Apr	South Melbourne	A	3.00pm

*final score was 1-1, but now stands as a 3-0 victory.

player profile

Spirit Matchday finds out from Scott Thomas just what his favourite things are:

Scott Thomas

Nickname:	Tanka
Height:	172cm
Weight:	76kg
Date of Birth:	19.8.74
Place of Birth:	Orange
Signed from:	Sydney Olympic
Previous Clubs:	Adelaide City, Newcastle Breakers
Position:	Midfield
Squad Number:	6

Favourite meal:
Steak and salad.

Favourite pre-match meal:
Pasta.

Favourite drink:
Crown lager.

Favourite music:
Retro.

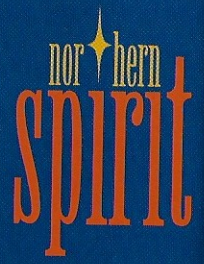
Who will win this year's comp (excluding Northern Spirit):
South Melbourne.

Favourite player in your position:
Roy Keane.

Favourite other sport:
Rugby League.

Favourite other sports star:
Michael Jordon.

KIDS CLUB



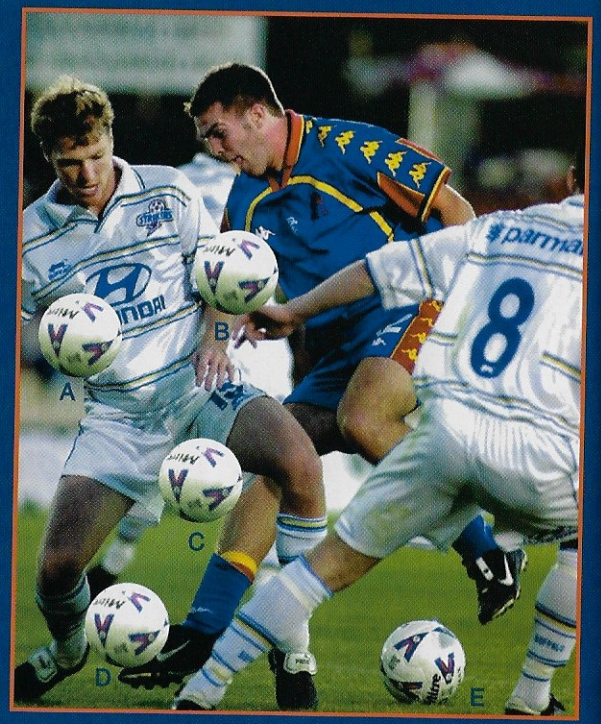
QUICK QUIZ !!!

See how you go with these quick questions - see if you can get all three right and score a hat-trick!

1. New Northern Spirit coach Mick Hickman guided Sydney Olympic to a Grand Final win in 1989/90 - but what position did they finish on the ladder that season?
2. Who was their leading goalscorer that season? (Clue: he later went on to play for Northern Spirit)
3. Which Spanish team did Aurelio Vidmar play for?

SPOT THE BALL

Which one of the five footballs is the real one?



Answers: Quick Quiz - 1. 5th 2. Abbas Saad 3. Tenerife. Spot the Ball: Ball E

WORD SEARCH

Included in this jumble of letters are the surnames of seven players who were selected in the LG Socceroo squad to play Colombia last week. The names can appear in any straight line - vertically, horizontally or diagonally, and can be backwards or forwards! When you've got all the names, look at the remaining letters for the name of another player in the squad who will be wanting Adelaide to defeat us here at North Sydney Oval today.

Names:

Bolton
Blatsis
Horvat
Miller
Burns
Corica
Aloisi

m	i	b	l	a	t	s	i	s
m	s	v	i	d	m	a	r	t
i	i	n	o	t	l	o	b	b
l	o	c	o	m	c	f	u	b
l	l	s	n	o	c	r	u	c
e	a	c	r	g	n	r	n	f
r	v	i	d	s	v	a	s	c
f	c	h	o	r	v	a	t	m
a	t	m	l	w	l	m	f	f

Meet the Mascot

Congratulations to tonight's lucky OYSC winner who will be running out with the team.

Name: Lara Whellan
Age: 6
From: Drummoyne
Favourite Player: Robbie Slater

Word seach answer: Aurelia VIDMAR

latest news & views

Arnold takes up full-time position as Assistant Senior National Team Coach.

As Spirit fans will know, former coach Graham Arnold took up a full-time position with the national team as Assistant Coach to Frank Farina shortly after our round 17 loss to Sydney Olympic.

The experienced Mick Hickman, who introduces himself on page 4 of Spirit Matchday and who is Caretaker Coach until the end of the season, has replaced Arnold.

With deadlines meaning this happened after our last issue went to print this is the first occasion to say 'thank you' to 'Arnie' for everything he achieved with the club.

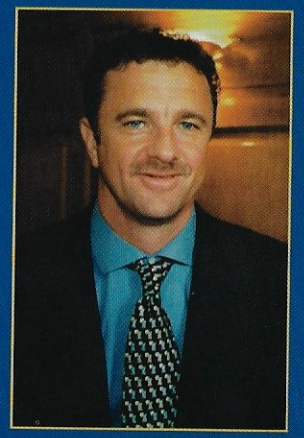
Arnold took the reigns for 79 NSL games with the Spirit, and ended up with a record of 30 wins, 12 draws and 37 defeats.

After the announcement he said, "I look back over the past two and a half years with pride and mixed emotions. When I started at the club there wasn't even a club. There was no youth structure, we didn't even have balls or bibs and to know I had a major part in setting the club up is something that no one can ever take away from me.

"I would like to thank Bill Collins, Steve Watson, Ian Crook, the staff and the loyal supporters of the club who have helped me and joined in the success of launching the club, which I see as being a big success."

As well as resigning as coach Arnold also resigned from his playing contract with Northern Spirit.

All at Northern Spirit wishes Graham Arnold the very best with the LG Socceroos and thanks him for all his efforts.



Graham Arnold

NSL Leading goalscorers chart 2000/01

D. MORI	Perth Glory	13
B. DESPOTOVSKI	Perth Glory	12
A. THOMPSON	Marconi Stallions	12
B. BURGESS	Northern Spirit	11
S. CHIPPERFIELD	W'gong Wolves	10
A. CERVINSKI	Melbourne Knights	9
J. MILLER	Parramatta Power	9

Congratulations to both Robbie Slater and Troy Cranney on not only reaching 250 NSL games, but also by marking the occasion with a 4-2 victory over Newcastle United in our round 20 game at Marathon Stadium.

Robbie Slater

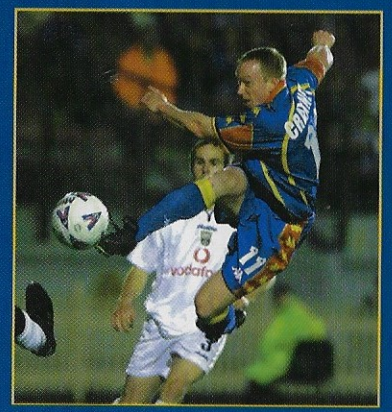
Cranney actually played his 50th match for Northern Spirit against Eastern Pride a fortnight earlier, while Slater's second half substitute appearance against United means his 250th game came about 19 years after his NSL debut when, as a 17 year old, he played for St George back in 1982. That makes Slater's debut the earliest of ANY player currently in the NSL.

Slater and Cranney are mainstays of the Northern Spirit club and reach the 250 mark with completely varying careers.

Slater of course spent the best part of a decade in Europe and is still the only Australian to win the English Premier League (with Blackburn Rovers in 1994/95) while he also had stints at Southampton, West Ham, Lens in France and Anderlecht.

Cranney, on the other hand, has spent every season in the NSL and was a member of the Brisbane Strikers side that won the 1996/97 Grand Final.

Spirit Matchday congratulates both players and wishes them the very best for this season and beyond.



Troy Cranney

Our opponents this afternoon, the Adelaide City Force, became just the second club to play 700 NSL games when they came up against the Kingz at Hindmarsh Stadium in round 20. Adelaide City's 700th match (including finals) occurred just one week after Marconi attained the 700-match milestone.

Ben Burgess is now the leading goalscorer in the history of Northern Spirit, with his two goals against the Kingz in round 19 taking his tally to 11 - one more than club captain Robbie Slater, who previously held the mantle of leading goalscorer with 10.

welcome to the northern spirit web site

Northern Spirit is proud to launch the new Northern Spirit website and hope you, the fans, enjoy searching through the many sections of what we believe is a huge step forward for the Northern Spirit Football Club.

The newly launched Northern Spirit website contains many new features and details that gives Northern Spirit fans the latest news and views on everything that is happening at the club - on and off the field!

Here is a brief rundown of the site:

LATEST NEWS

This section contains the latest news from Northern Spirit, club news including sponsorship announcements and player signings and a regular update of the form of our Australian players in Europe and the rest of the world through Aussies Abroad.

THE MATCH

This is the place to go for the latest news and views of the club leading into each and every Northern Spirit match. It contains the Manager's views in Mick's Microphone, a rundown on our opposition, a preview of the match, review of the previous match, what you can expect to read in the coming edition of the Spirit Matchday programme and details on how to get to and from North Sydney Oval.

ABOUT SPIRIT

Want to know about the history of the Northern Spirit Football Club, past players, past glories and details on the club structure and how to get in touch with the Northern Spirit team at Spirit Headquarters.

THE TEAM

A comprehensive outline of the first grade side, the league ladder, fixtures and results, profiles on the players along with stats from games, a youth league section, as well as who is coming through the Spirit Nursery and the people that make the first grade side tick in the backroom.

FANS

A dedicated section for the Northern Spirit fans. This section includes Weekly Polls, a Spirit quiz so you can test your knowledge, question and answer section where you can ask anyone at the club questions with a selection of answers posted onto the site, a picture gallery so you can download pictures from Spirit matches and a webcast and message board section, both of which are still under construction. To get into the fans section all you need to do is become a Northern Spirit Net Member and we will also send out regular information to your email address so you will be right up to date with everything happening in and around the club.

OPPORTUNITIES

This section outlines the opportunities for corporates or the dedicated fans who would like to sample the corporate hospitality at North Sydney Oval or those who want to be part of the Spirit through sponsorship and signage.

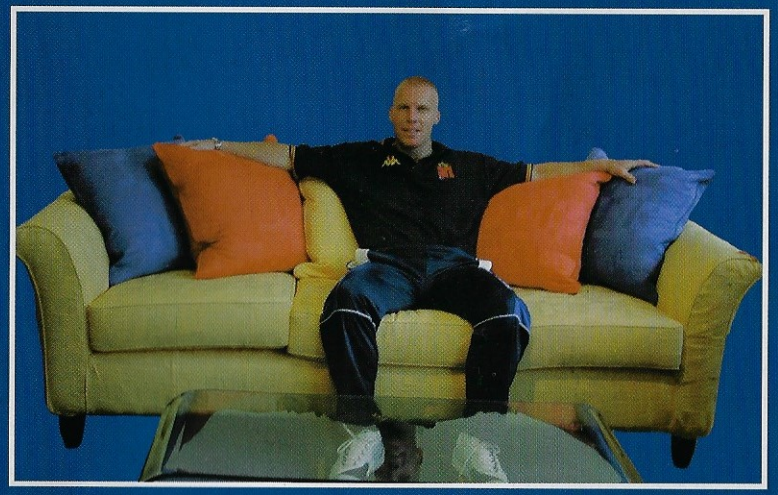
COMMUNITY

The greatest asset of the Northern Spirit Football Club is the local communities and this section will be dedicated to keeping the local community up to date with what is happening at the club. It will also give kids the chance to book a visit from a Northern Spirit player and we are also building an exciting section that will give you, the junior soccer players, the chance to tell all Spirit fans how your team is going on the weekend.

SPIRIT SHOP

Northern Spirit is currently building an on-line merchandise shop so Spirit fans can purchase Northern Spirit merchandise from home. We have already displayed what is on offer and how to buy shirts, flags and caps, with the on-line section to be included in the future.

livingedge
FURNITURE RENTALS



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national youth league

It has been a busy period for the Northern Spirit Youth team since our last issue of Spirit Matchday, with three games to report on.

In the round 18 game against the Newcastle United Colts Spirit had a 2-0 victory, a last minute own goal securing the win for Spirit after John Majurovski's 61st minute goal had put us 1-0 up.

Spirit then faced a tricky match against the NSWIS at Valentine Sports Park in round 19, and went behind when Christopher Cop opened the scoring for our opponents in the 9th minute.

Two goals in the last ten minutes though gave Spirit the win - Luciano Berbis scoring in the 82nd minute before Michael Prentice got the winner with three minutes to go.

Like the first team game the round 20 match against Newcastle United proved a thriller - Spirit going 2-0 down before Majurovski grabbed his 7th goal of the season just before half-time.

When Chad Mansley scored a double to make it 4-1 to our opponents there looked to be little hope, but a double of his own by Alex Moriera in the 54th and 91st minutes, split by an 82nd minute strike by Joe Schirripa somehow salvaged a draw.

Youth Team results so far:

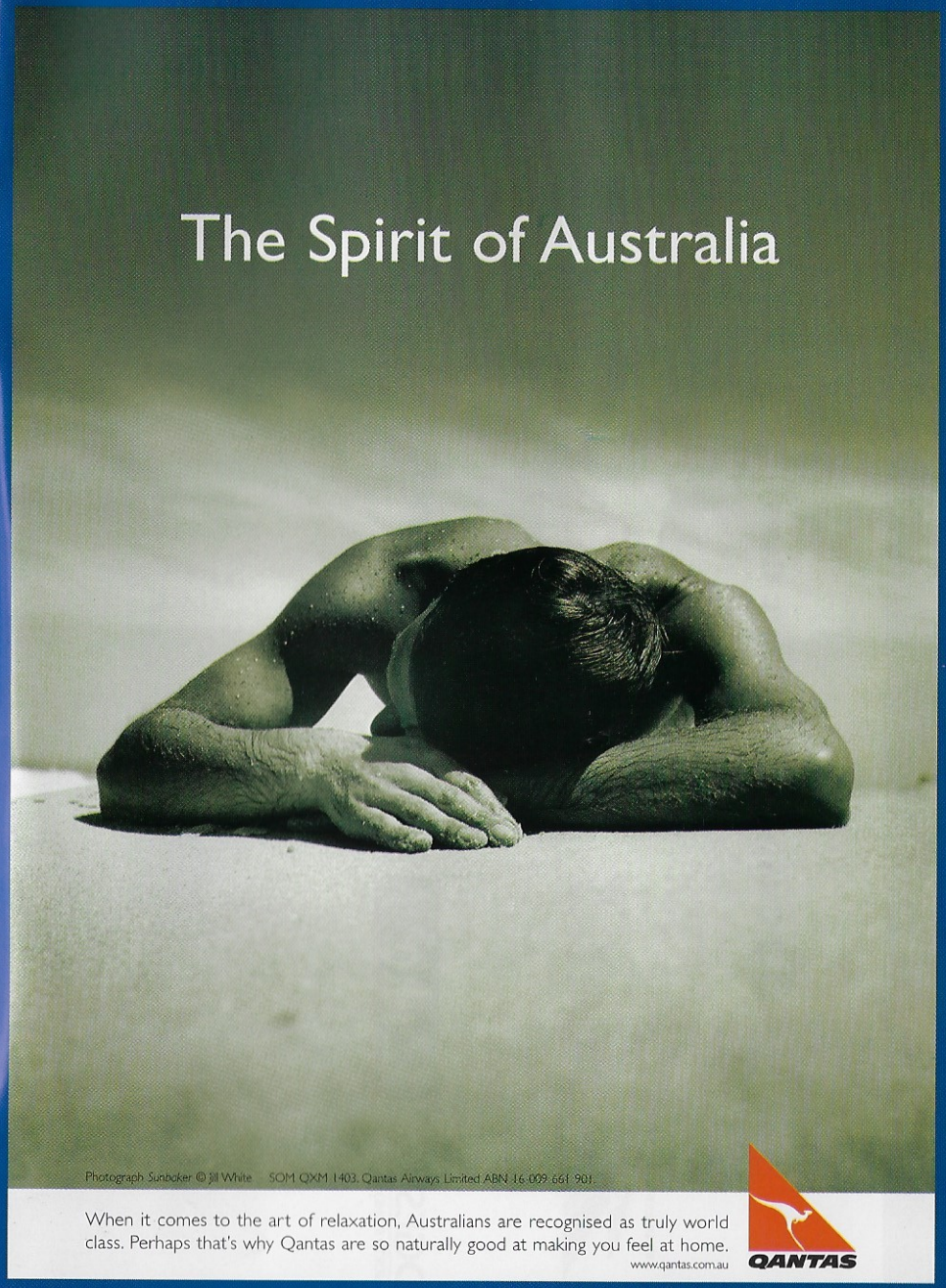
R1 Sydney United 2-3 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R2 NORTHERN SPIRIT 3-2 Sydney Olympic
R3 Newcastle United Colts 0-6 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R4 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2-0 N.S.W.I.S
R5 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2-0 Newcastle United Youth
R6 A.I.S 1-0 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R7 ACT Academy 0-3 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R8 Bye
R9 NORTHERN SPIRIT 1-2 Marconi Stallions Youth
R10 Sydney Olympic Academy 0-0 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R12 Parramatta Power 2-3 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R13 NORTHERN SPIRIT 0-2 Canberra Cosmos
R15 NORTHERN SPIRIT 4 - 2 Marconi Stallions Colts
R16 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 - 4 Sydney United
R17 Sydney Olympic 2 - 0 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R18 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 - 0 Newcastle United Colts
R19 NSWIS 1 - 2 NORTHERN SPIRIT
R20 Newcastle United Youth 4 - 4 NORTHERN SPIRIT

(The round 11 game against the QAS has been rescheduled for the 16th March, 2001)

Upcoming games:

R21 - Saturday 3rd March 4.00pm v AIS - Christie Park
R22 - Saturday 10th March 4:00pm v ACT Academy - Christie Park
R23 - Saturday 17th March - BYE

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2000/2001 NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER

Team	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
A.I.S.	19	16	2	1	1	56	21	50
Parramatta Power	19	12	2	1	5	56	29	38
Marconi Stallions	16	11	2	1	3	38	11	36
Newcastle United	17	10	2	1	5	35	20	32
NORTHERN SPIRIT	17	10	2	1	5	37	24	32
Wollongong Wolves	16	9	4	2	3	35	15	31
Sydney Olympic	17	9	2	2	6	42	34	29
Sydney United	18	8	1	2	9	35	36	25

Team	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Cosmos	18	7	3	2	8	38	31	24
Marconi Stal Colts	17	8	0	2	9	37	31	24
N.S.W.I.S.	19	7	2	1	10	23	41	23
Q.A.S.	19	7	1	1	11	30	51	22
Syd Olympic Acdy	18	2	4	1	12	21	41	10
N'castle United Colts	17	2	0	1	15	12	47	6
ACT Academy	19	1	1	1	17	8	68	4